Irregularities in procurement of Radar

†1239. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the type of irregularities mentioned in a report regarding Defence deals submitted to Government by the CBI after conducting an enquiry into the charges of so called corruption in arms detecting radar's deal;

(b) whether the said report has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission;

(c) if so, the Commission's observation thereon; and

(d) what action Government are going to take to ensure fairness and honesty in Defence deals in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) A complaint was received alleging certain irregularities in the course of procurement of Weapon Locating Radar (WLR). Since the issues raised were of sensitive nature, the Government decided to refer the matter to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), to get the complaint investigated. The CVC, in turn, referred the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which rendered its Report in the matter to the CVC, whereupon, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) was asked to take further action, as directed. After due deliberation in the Ministry, the matter was re-referred to the CVC, which in turn, forwarded it to the CBI for further action.

Since the matter is still pending inquiry/investigation no details can be revealed either with regard to the CBI's Report or the CVC's observation.

As regards action to be taken by the Government to ensure fairness and honesty in Defence deals in the future, it is intimated that the Group of Ministers set up for Reforming the National Security

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

System in their recommendations relating to reforms in the Higher Defence Management have recommended the setting up of a Defence Procurement Board. This is under implementation.

Outcome of operation "Poorna Vijaya"

†1240. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) in what way the "Operation Poorna Vijaya" conducted in May, 2001 by Indian Armed Forces differ from "Operation Brasstax" and "Operation Shiva Shakti";

(b) the outcome of the said exercise with regard to testing of arms, ammunitions and communications system and their efficacy;

(c) whether exercise pertaining to the safety against the atomic attacks as well as the retaliatory action has also been included in this operation;

(d) if not, whether the Armed Forces are imparted training regarding technical knowhow of atomic warfare; and

(e) the number of Indian Army and Air Force Personnel participated in this exercise together with the arms-ammunitions and equipments used therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) It would not be in the national/public interest to divulge the information.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.